

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

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P 230920Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4084

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, BY

SUBJECT: GRB EXPRESSES CONCERN RE FORTHCOMING BOOK ON BURUNDI

1. VICE MIN FON AFFAIRS GASPARD KARENZO CALLED ON AMBASSADOR NOVEMBER 22. SAID HE HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY FON MIN SIMBANWNIYE BEFORE LATTERS DEPARTURE FOR ADDIS TO EXPRESS TO USG FONMIN'S CONCERN OVER FORTHCOMING BOOK ON BURUNDI BY FORMER AMBASSADOR THOMAS MELADY. KARENZO SAID MOFA DID NOT HAVE COPY OF PROOF BUT HAD RECEIVED SUMMARY REPORT FROM AMBASSADOR NDABANIWE WHO HAD READ. BASED ON THIS LIMITED INFORMATION, WHICH KARENO UNABLE AMPLIFY. MOFA HOPED USG COULD INFLUENCE MELADY STOP PUBLICATION.

2. KARENZO NOTED SEVERAL TIMES THAT GRB FELT RELATIONS WITH US GOOD AND THAT GRB CONTINUED TO BE ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THESE RELATIONS AS INDICATED IN PARTICULAR AT TIME ASSIGNMENT OF NDABANIWE TO PRESENT US AND UN POSTS. THEREFORE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO PUBLICATION OF COMMENTARY ON BURUNDI EVENTS BY HIGHLY REGARDED US AMBASSADOR.

3. AMBASSADOR TOLD KARENZO HE WOULD NOT WISH JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS ON BASIS SCANT DATA AVAILABLE BOTH MOFA AND EMBASSY. EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT BOOK SHOULD ELICIT SUCH REACTION IN LIGHT OF AMBASSADOR MELASY'S CONTINUING CONCERN FOR BURUNDI AND FOR US-BURUNDI

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RELATIONS AND HIS KNOWN INTEREST IN PRESENTING OBJECTIVE

PICTURE BURUNDI DEVELOPMENTS IN FACE SPATE OF INCOMPLETELY INFORMED PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS IN US. THEREFORE SUGGESTED NDABANIWE BE REQUESTED DISCUSS MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE PARTIES IN US, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING AUTHOR AND DESK, SO AS TO CLARIFY BASIS OF PROBLEM AND ESTABLISH WHETHER FURTHER ACTION REASONABLY POSSIBLE.

4. KARENZO AGREED AND SAID HE WOULD CABLE NDABANIWE.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THIS MATTER HAS GONE BEYOND MOFA. PERHAPS IT IS SIMBANANIYE'S FOOT THAT THE SHOE IS PINCHING. STRONGLY HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT TIMING OF PUBLICATION PERMITS DELAY IF NECESSARY FOR FULL DISCUSSION WITH NDABANIWE. ASSUME, SINCE PROOF APPARENTLY AVAILABLE, THAT COPY HAS BEEN FORWARDED EMBASSY AND THAT EMBASSY WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 23 NOV 1973
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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